

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 2000-494

April 19, 2001

ENERGY ATLANTIC
Request for Waiver from the Requirements
Of Chapter 306

ORDER EXTENDING
WAIVER

WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT and DIAMOND, Commissioners

On April 17, 2001, Energy Atlantic (EA) filed a request for an extension of a waiver that would allow it to continue to include required disclosure information on its standard offer customers' bills. By Order issued July 11, 2000, the Commission granted EA's initial request for a waiver from the provisions of the disclosure rule (Chapter 306) so that the information could be provided on a single page included with the customers' bills. In its Order, the Commission stated that it grants the waiver because the departure from the disclosure rule is minor and the cost savings to EA are substantial. The Commission also noted that including the information on the bills should not be considered a long-term approach, because the option is only viable when there is limited competitive activity for residential and small commercial customers.¹ For this reason, the Commission limited the waiver to EA's first standard offer year, but indicated that it would consider a request by EA to extend the waiver in light of then existing circumstances.

In its April 17th request for a waiver extension, EA states that current circumstances are very similar to those existing at the time of the initial waiver. Specifically, EA states that competition for residential and small commercial customers remains extremely limited, EA will continue to have substantial cost savings, and CMP has confirmed its ability and willingness to print the disclosure information on the customers' bills.

Section 10 of Chapter 306 provides that the Director of Technical Analysis may, for good cause, waive any provision of the rule not required by statute, provided the waiver is not inconsistent with the purposes of the rule. For good cause shown, EA's request for a waiver is, hereby, granted for the period March 2001 through February 2002 on the same terms included in the Commission's July 11, 2000 Order.

CMP is directed to amend its current rate schedule to comply with this Order.

¹ The disclosure information is provided on page 4 of the bills issued by Central Maine Power Company (CMP). CMP has indicated that once customers start switching, this page will be used for billing information, as well as to indicate if there is an off-cycle switch.

Dated at Augusta, Maine, this 19th day of April, 2001.

BY ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

Faith Huntington
Acting Director